

<b>DIVISION OF MINES</b>	<b>CHAPTER: III Emergency Response</b>
<b>PROCEDURES MANUAL</b>	
	<b>PROCEDURE NO.: 1.03.03</b>
	<b>ISSUE DATE: January 1, 1997</b>
<b>SUBJECT: State Designated Mine</b>	<b>LAST REVISED:</b>
<b>Rescue</b>	

## **OBJECTIVE AND INTENT**

To administer the State-Designated Mine Rescue Program consistent with the Mine Safety Act and memorandum of agreement with MSHA for the purpose of making available to underground mine operators mine rescue teams meeting the standards of Title 30 CFR, Part 49.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **1. PARTICIPATION AS STATE-DESIGNATED MINE RESCUE TEAM**

- Any mine rescue team which meets the requirements of Title 30 CFR, Part 49, is eligible for participation in the State-Designated Mine Rescue Program and may request to be evaluated and considered for participation. Such request should be made in writing to the Director with a prompt evaluation of the request to be conducted by the Chief. Recommendation for acceptance or rejection will be based on fully meeting the program requirements for eligibility. State-Designated Mine Rescue Teams must sign an agreement with the Department which sets forth the conditions for their participation in the program.
- State-Designated Mine Rescue Stations are to be inspected four times annually with a report of inspection produced describing the operational readiness of the station and personnel, and recording any deficiencies identified during the inspections.
- A written response to deficiencies identified during inspections will be required from the participating mine rescue team representative. This response will include action taken to correct deficiencies and the date corrections were completed.

## 2. PARTICIPATION BY MINE OPERATORS

- Any licensed mine operation may request participation in the State-Designated Mine rescue Program. Upon meeting the conditions for participation, signing the agreement for services and payment of the required fee, the mine operator will be assigned two or more mine rescue teams.
- The agreement is non-transferable and must be renewed annually. However, if a mine moves to another location and maintains the same operator, equipment and group of employees, the agreement may be amended to continue for the remainder of the original agreement. This may be accomplished by written request from the operator establishing that these conditions exist justifying the amendment.
- The mine operation requesting participation must present a valid certificate of worker's compensation insurance coverage for the operation being assigned state-designated mine rescue teams. This coverage must be maintained in effect for the period of any agreement.

## 3. COORDINATION WITH MSHA

- The Division of Mines will, through a memorandum of agreement, coordinate with MSHA the activities of the State-Designated Mine Rescue Program.
- The Division of Mines will promptly notify MSHA of those mining operations which have secured mine rescue coverage meeting 30 CFR, Part 49, requirements through the State-Designated Mine Rescue Program.
- Copies of inspection reports of mine rescue stations, and responses to deficiencies and corrective actions from teams will be forwarded to the MSHA program coordinator.

## 4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MINE RESCUE CREWS

- The following specifications must be met to qualify for membership on a mine rescue crew:
  - a. Must be an experienced miner
  - b. Must pass an annual physical and must maintain a record of the physical.

- All rescue or recovery work by these crews will be under the jurisdiction of the Department in consultation with company officials, MSHA, and miner's representatives. When engaged in rescue and recovery, crew members will be considered employees of the mine where the emergency exists and should be compensated by the mine operator at a rate no less than the prevailing top rate within the industry. Also, the crew members will be under the mine operator's workers' compensation coverage.

## 5. TRAINING OF MINE RESCUE CREWS

- Each member of a mine rescue crew must devote four hours each month or eight hours every two months for training and be available at all times to assist in rescue work. It will be the duty and responsibility of the Department to see that all crews are properly trained by qualified instructors who have been certified by MSHA.

## 6. RESCUE WORK REQUIREMENTS

- The following are minimum requirements during recovery efforts:
  - a. Crews must be properly informed of existing conditions prior to entering the mine.
  - b. Where breathing apparatus are being utilized (as necessitated), back up crews of equal strength will be stationed at each fresh air base.
  - c. For every two crews working underground, there will be one six-member crew on the surface stationed at the mine portal.
  - d. Two-way communications, life lines, or their equivalent will be provided by the fresh air base for all crews.
  - e. No crew member will be permitted to advance beyond such communication system.
  - f. Should an apparatus of a crew member fail or deplete to 60 atmospheres, the entire crew will return to the fresh air base.

## 7. INSPECTIONS OF MINE RESCUE STATIONS

- The Chief will require the rescue station of each state-designated mine rescue team to be inspected four times a year to ensure that all stations are adequately equipped and crews adequately trained.
- Inspecting personnel should identify themselves upon arrival at a rescue station and assure mine employees of their purpose.

- Rescue stations will be inspected in accordance with Section 45.1-22.5:3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia and inspected under 30 CFR, Part 49. The following should be checked:

- a. Training Records. 30 CFR, Part 49.8
  - (1) Every two months, check wearing and use of the breathing apparatus by team members for a period of at least two hours while under oxygen.
  - (2) Forty hours of refresher training annually. This training shall be given at least four hours each month, or for a period of eight hours every two months.
  - (3) Underground session at least once every six months.
- b. Number of team members available with up-to-date training and physicals. 30 CFR 49.7 and 49.8.
- c. Equipment checks. 30 CFR 49.6(A) (1). At least 12 self-contained oxygen breathing apparatus (minimum of two hour capacity). Thirty day (monthly) apparatus checks current.
  - (1) Gas detecting devices. 45.6 (6)(7). Two gas detectors appropriate for detecting and monitoring carbon monoxide, methane, and oxygen.
  - (2) Communication system 49.6 (8). One portable mine rescue communication system (approved under Part 23 of this title) or a sound-powered communication system. The wires or cable to the communication system must be of sufficient tensile strength to be used as a manual communication system. These communication systems must be at least 1,000 feet in length.
  - (3) Spare parts 49.6 (9). Necessary spare parts and tools for repairing the breathing apparatus and communication system.
  - (4) List equipment readiness 49.6 (9B). Mine rescue apparatus and equipment must be maintained in a manner that will ensure readiness for immediate use. 49.6(2). A portable supply of liquid air, liquid oxygen, pressurized oxygen, oxygen generating or carbon dioxide absorbent chemicals, as applicable to the supplied breathing apparatus and sufficient to sustain each team for six hours while using breathing apparatus during rescue operations. 49.6(3). One extra oxygen bottle (fully charged) for every six self-contained compressed oxygen breathing apparatus.
  - (5) Mine rescue station. 49.5 C. Mine rescue stations must provide a proper storage environment to assure equipment readiness for immediate use.